

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment cancels original claims 1-12 in the underlying PCT Application No. PCT/EP98/04434 and the substitute claims 1-10 annexed to the International Preliminary Examination Report (a translation of which is submitted herewith), and adds new claims 13-22. The new claims do not add new matter to the application but do conform the claims to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules.

The amendments to the specification and abstract are to conform the specification and abstract to U.S. Patent and Trademark Office rules. It is respectfully submitted that the amendments to the specification and abstract do not introduce new matter into the application.

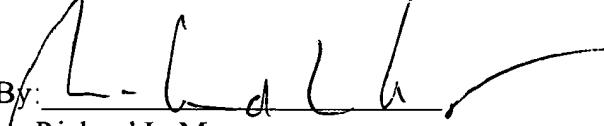
The underlying PCT application includes a Search Report, a copy of which is included herewith.

Conclusion

Consideration of the present application as amended is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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